

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35, 36, and 38. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35, 36, and 38 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 39-55 have been added. Thus, claims 39-55 are pending.

Applicants' specification fully supports new claims 39-55. For example, the specification discloses a nucleic acid having an autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme wherein the sum of the number of nucleotides of the first and second arms is 25 nucleotides or more. In fact, Figure 3 discloses a nucleic acid having an autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme wherein the sum of the number of nucleotides of the first and second arms is 25 nucleotides. See, Figure 3, right side, labeled "18:7 3' cis-acting ribozyme." Figure 3 also discloses a nucleic acid having autocatalytically cleaving ribozyme wherein the sum of the number of nucleotides of the first and second arms is 27 nucleotides. See Figure 3, left side, labeled "7:20 5' cis-acting ribozyme." In addition, on page 36, lines 7-8, Applicants' specification discloses that the arms of the cis-acting ribozymes of pCLIP, which each have a sum of 13 nucleotides, can be lengthened by 20 nucleotides. Thus, no new matter has been added.

In light of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claims 39-55.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35-36, and 38 as allegedly failing to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35-36, and 38 have been cancelled herein. Thus, the rejection is moot.

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Serial No. : 10/082,973
Filed : February 26, 2002
Page : 6 of 6

Attorney's Docket No.: 14017-004002 / PSU 96-1566

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

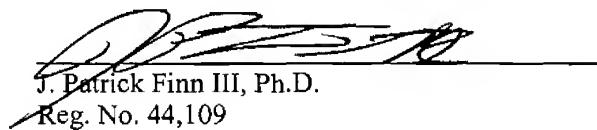
The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35-36, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite alleging that the term "longer" is a relative term. Applicants respectfully disagree. To further prosecution, however, claims 1, 4-5, 7, 10, 12, 17, 19-24, 26, 35-36, and 38 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Thus, the rejection is moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that claims 39-55 are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below if such will advance prosecution of this application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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